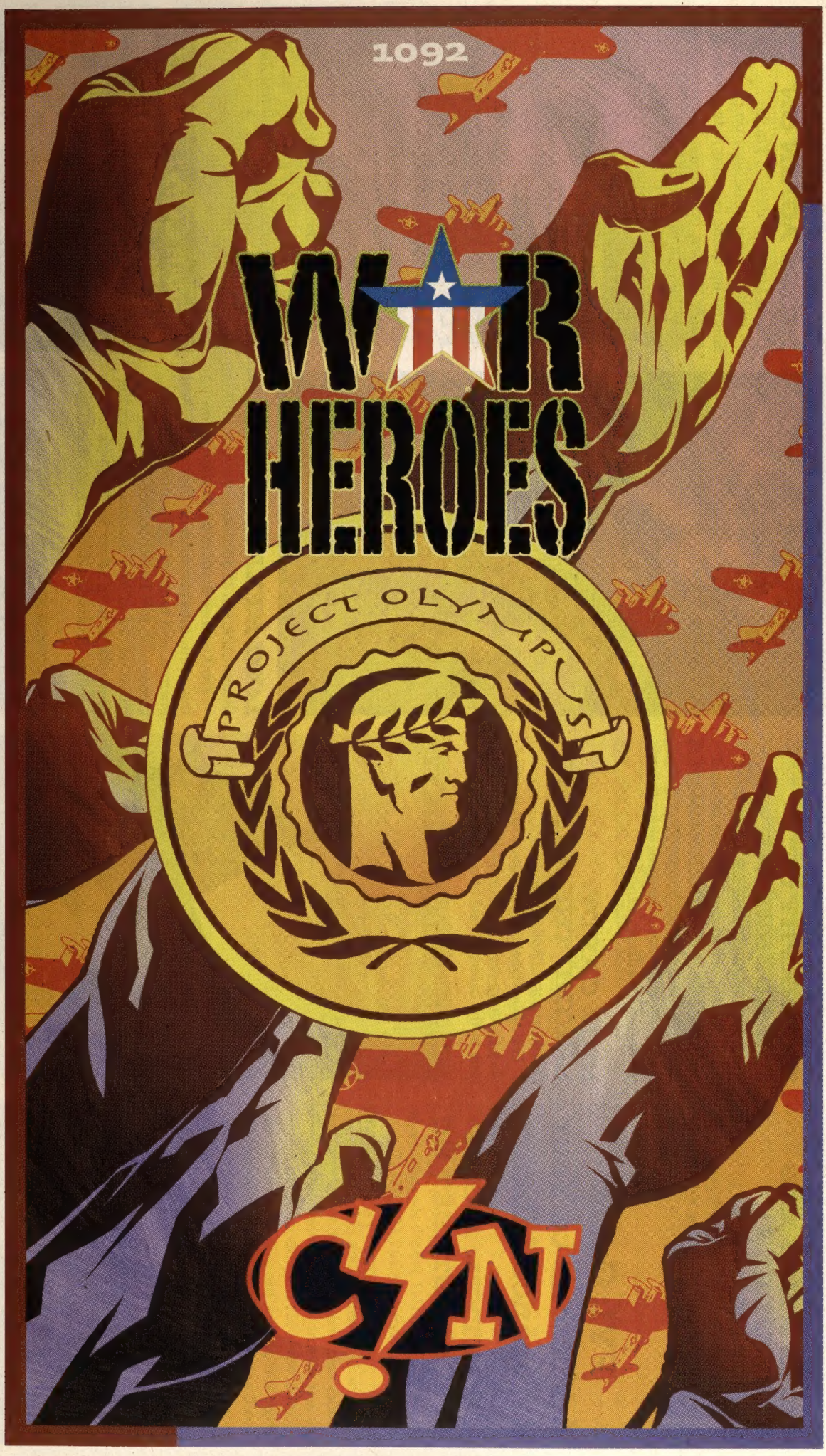
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WAR HEROES
PROJECT OLYMPUS
C!N

War Heroes—Ultimate Soldiers

Wondering what ***Ultimates 3*** might have been like had *Mark Millar* (author of the first two ***Ultimates*** series) continued with the book?

You don't have to speculate—you can pick up ***War Heroes*** and find out exactly what Millar would have done with the concept of heroes working for the government as a military adjunct.

Millar describes ***War Heroes*** as "what my ***Ultimates 3*** would have been if Bryan and I had stuck around. Don't get me wrong... I love what Jeph and Joe Mad have done with ***Ultimates 3*** and am very pleased to see them do their own thing. It's a gutsy move and far more interesting than seeing them doing a rehash of what we did.

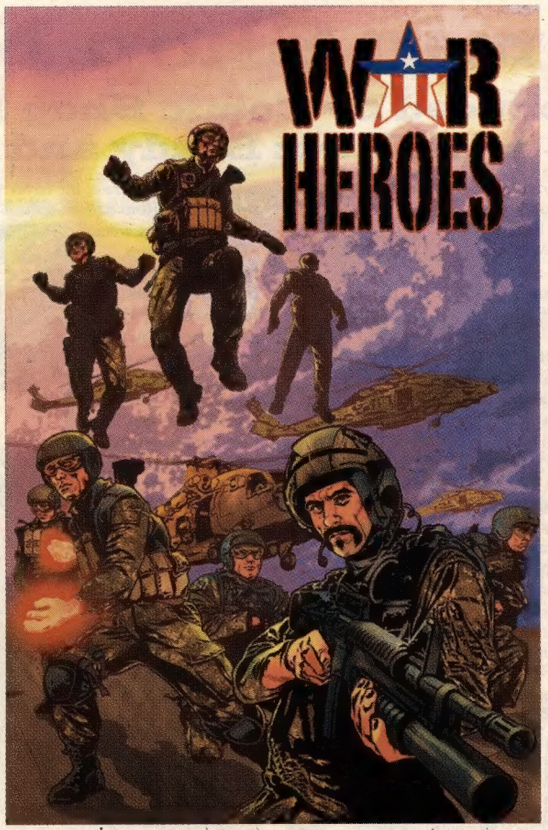
"But my *own* plan, if we were going to stick around, was to split ***Ultimates*** into two books. One of these would be ***Ultimate Avengers*** and show the team as an independent unit funded by Stark International and living in his townhouse (as set up at the end of ***Ultimates 2***). The other book would be called ***Ultimates 3*** and focus on the Ultimate Reserves we introduced in ***Ultimates 2***.

"Nick Fury always had this huge plan, right from the start, where he wanted to replace soldiers with super-soldiers and he started this off with a PR exercise starring Captain America and a popular businessman. But his long term aim was to cut costs and make the army more efficient. ***Ultimates 3*** was a massive expansion of this with literally *thousands* of super-soldiers fighting America's wars overseas, but it wouldn't have been right for the Ultimate universe. What I wanted to do quickly became a self-contained story, so I stored all those little ideas and developed them into something else. This is the origin of ***War Heroes***. It's my sequel in many ways to ***Ultimates 1*** and ***Ultimates 2***."

While the book focuses on a military force imbued with superpowers to make them the ultimate army, Millar isn't using the book as a vehicle for a political statement. "First and foremost, this is a superhero comic. We should be clear about that. It's a superhero comic in a war setting, but primarily it has all the trappings of a superhero book..."

Millar explains the setup for the series. "In a nutshell, America is rattled by a series of terror attacks just as the appetite for war is fading. This leads to a brief spike in support, but as Iran gets invaded and Southern Turkey and Syria become war-zones the American people are rioting in the streets and want the war to end now. That's when the military deliver their master-stroke. Super-powers for anyone who signs up.

"I'm as liberal as Susan Sarandon, but if superpowers were on offer I'd be first in line to slaughter Johnny Foreigner. So we have literally thousands and thousands of US troops taking people out in the Gulf and finally getting the whole place under control.



"Naturally, we quickly divert things in a different direction and the basic idea is about eight bastards who sneak into this super-soldier program in a bid to get powers for their own purposes. They're going to use them to pull off the biggest scam of all time. What this is doesn't get revealed into the second issue, but imagine Three Kings or Ocean's Eleven meets Captain America's super-soldier serum. Eight bastards with a plan."

These eight characters quickly become the focus of the series. "We're following the exploits of eight new recruits who have infiltrated the program for their own means. They get through training, hit Iran, and then desert to do the mission they have planned for themselves. They just hate living in this poverty-stricken US and have something far cooler in mind, using the powers to get that."

Does every country develop a super-powered army? "No, only the US have these powers. It's an allegory for what's happening at the moment. The US are, to all intents and purposes, the only real superpower on the planet now, so the only genuine conflict comes from within. The powers, by the way, are quite interesting. Comics has always portrayed heroes with a specific power, but I've had some fun here and created weapons belts packed with powers in pill form... it's super-ammo in the sense that the soldiers only get the powers for 24 hours. So you can pop speed, flight and heat-vision or you can pop invisibility, strength and invulnerability, depending on what you've been issues with and each one comes with a time limit. It's like a video-game."

Artist *Tony Harris* explained how he became involved with ***War Heroes***. "I actually called Mark to ask him to write a creator -owned series I was about to pitch something that I had been developing for a while, and he said no to that due to contractual reasons with Marvel and his schedule. So he said that he had been wanting to work with me for a while and had a couple of things in a new line of creator-owned books he was about to launch once he finished his obligations at Marvel. So I took a looksee and jumped at the *War Heroes* deal. it was *just* my cup o' tea."

Is Harris giving the characters a superheroic look, or is his take on more down-to-earth? "I took the current gear and uniforms of the United States military, and the Special Forces and I combined it with the current stuff in development, and the next- gen stuff that is trickling out," Harris said. "The logical steps towards what's next in military prowess and technology. But that was one question I asked Mark ---- Do these guys carry weapons—because you know, they *are* weapons? And he said that they all carry conventional weapons, which I think is quite cool.Because a soldier who can fly in our story may *not* have super-strength, etc..... ya see?"

Harris is acclaimed for bringing a realistic, real-world feel to his projects; how does that skill benefit him as far as ***War Heroes*** is concerned? "That is exactly what Mark set out to do here. That is sort of the one rule that he set forth here is that it has to feel *real*. No costumes, no beams shooting outta people eyes, etc... So that was also a huge draw for me. I operate better in that realm, so I feel right at home. I also am a hardcore collector of Militaria, and a WW2 buff. So give me a chance to draw that kind of thing, I am a happy man."

How does the collaborative process work? "He sends me all the pages—but of course they're so brilliant I have nothing to add," Millar said. "He can draw super-people, real people, military hardware, etc, and make it all perfect. I couldn't be happier with this and I know he's very excited to be working with a writer with such a good head of hair."

What does Image offer to Millar creatively that he couldn't get at Marvel, either through the company's Max line or their Icon imprint? "I've just always wanted to work at Image," Millar said. "I've heard nothing but good things about them and hope to do more if this works out well. Icon has an identical deal, and that's worked out amazingly well on ***Kick-Ass***. But from a business point of view ,this year I just wanted to give two companies two equally commercial properties and watch who does the best job.

"I've got four creator-owned books in the pipeline with some huge artists over the twelve months following ***War Heroes. Wanted, Chosen, Unfunnies, Kick-Ass*** and ***War Heroes*** rounds out Millarworld Phase One. Phase Two begins next Summer and where those books are published depend on how ***War Heroes*** does compared to ***Kick-Ass***. It's as simple as that—but the best deals in town are at Icon and Image. The creators essentially get everything and it doesn't get much better than that. Visibility is the interesting thing I want to look at next. Who's best at getting the book in the catalogue and getting it in stores?

"Creatively, they both let us do whatever we want so the only real way to compare them is in marketing terms. I'm impressed with what Image has planned for this book, though. In August, for example, we have a huge US tour planned. More on that later, but we're doing coast to coast over two weeks and they've done a great job setting all that up..."

While ***War Heroes*** focuses on the corruptive influence of military superpowers on eight soldiers, the book doesn't focus all of its political criticism on a single target. "...I also like the idea of rounding things out by having the balls to take on fundamentalist Islam too. A problem I have with fellow liberals is that we're so busy pointing the finger at Bush and Cheney we fail to point out that these guys are monsters. They represent everything we hate and vice versa. But at the same time, they're as far removed from the people on the ground as we are from the Pentagon and so the whole situation is shades of gray. There's no good guys or bad guys here—just people trying to do the right thing. Plus our eight guys in the middle completely abusing the system. But for a liberal like me it does seem quite odd and oddly liberating to write a scene where a super-soldier flies a helicopter into a building and chops up a hundred terrorists, laughing and cracking jokes. I don't know what I'm getting out of my system here."

As Millar fans might suspect, the book starts with a bang... literally. "The first page opens with a Muslim cab-driver walking into Congress, high on pain-killers and carrying a bomb. This isn't AIM or Hydra or Kobra or any of the substitutes. This is fundamentalist Islam at war with the most fundamentalist part of the United States. It's ***Full Metal Jacket*** meets ***X-Men, Heroes*** meets ***Jar-Head***, and a fatwah waiting to happen. God, why couldn't I have gone after a group that was peaceful and slightly camp like the Swiss or the French?

"Anyway, it's good stuff and if you dug ***Ultimates 1*** or 2 you should pick up our ***Ultimates 3***. It's that simple. This is ***Ultimates*** with the gloves off and your weapon cocked."

War Heroes #1, a $2.99 comic by *Mark Millar, Tony Harris,* and *Cliff Rathburn,* is scheduled for late June release.

by Matt Brady
& Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

CSNsider

•Turns out ***Catwoman*** isn't ending with #81 after all; DC has announced that the series will conclude in August with ***Catwoman #82*** instead. Look for more info on the final issue in ***CSN*** in the next couple of weeks.

•***Absolute*** fans take note: DC has totally sold out of ***Absolute DC: The New Frontier*** and ***Watchmen: The Absolute Edition,*** so if there's a copy at your friendly local comic shop you've been keeping an eye on, now's the time to grab it! Also out of print is ***JLA/Avengers: The Collectors Edition Oversized Slipcased HC,*** collecting the four-part *Kurt Busiek-George Pérez* crossover saga in an ***Absolute***-sized edition.

•***Astounding Wolf-Man,*** the monster-hero book by *Robert Kirkman & Jason Howard,* is going monthly this summer. "Frankly, I just couldn't stay patient," Robert Kirkman said. "Over the past year ***The Astounding Wolf-Man*** has become one of my favorite books to write and, even more so, seeing the pages pour in from Jason has made me crave *more*! With the impending shocker we've got coming in issue 7, we decided to switch the book from once every sixty days to every thirty! I certainly think folks will be happy with the results."

To pave the way for the relaunch, Image is modifying the contents of ***The Astounding Wolf-Man TP*** to include the first seven issues, so that readers can move straight from the collected edition to the monthly series.

•***DC Universe Zero,*** the groundbreaking comic that paves the way for such projects as ***Batman RIP*** and ***Final Crisis,*** has sold out of its hefty first printing and will go back to press to satisfy the phenomenal demand. The new printing, which will carry a $1 pricetag, will feature an altered version of the original cover, with Green Lantern art by *Ivan Reis* on the left, Wonder Woman art by *Aaron Lopresti* on the right, and new Legion of Super-Heroes art by *George Pérez* in the center. Look for it next week.

•The *Tommy Lee Edwards* ***Marvel 1985 #1 Variant*** that was initially announced as a 1-for-10 incentive is now an unrestricted-access variant. In addition, Marvel has moved ***Marvel 1985*** from the Marvel Knights (out-of-continuity) line to the standard Marvel line, and writer *Mark Millar* will reveal in the near future how his three current Marvel titles—***Fantastic Four, Wolverine,*** and ***Marvel 1985***—will interconnect in the next few months.

•*Dan Slott & John Romita Jr.* offer an unexpected twist on a fan-favorite villain in August's ***Amazing Spider-Man #568,*** when they kick off a six-issue arc that introduces the enigmatic Anti-Venom. So who is he and what's his relation to Venom? Marvel's not saying yet... but we'll all know soon enough!

•Readers who missed out on ***Thor #s 7 & 8*** will get a chance to catch up on the story when Marvel reprints both issues in ***Thor: Search for Odin Must-Have,*** a $3.99 comic featuring a new cover

by *Marko Djurdjevic* that's a pickup piece from Djurdjevic's interior art; it's slated for early June release.

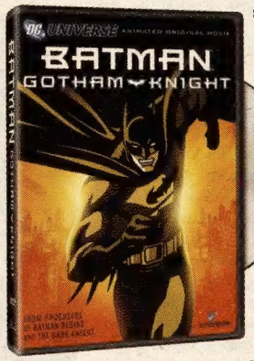
•Marvel's also collecting the sold-out ***X-Force #s 1-3*** in the $4.99 ***X-Force: LEgacy of Vengeance;*** the book will feature a newly designed *Clayton Crain* cover based on his art for ***X-Force #2.***

•The Dabel Brothers' ***Dresden Files: Welcome to the Jungle #1,*** an original Harry Dresden tale written by creator *Jim Butcher,* has sold out of its first printing; the book will return in a second edition, which will feature a new cover by *Marat Mychaels.*

"While we were certainly hoping for big things from this series," said Dabel Brother President *Ernst Dabel,* "it seems what has happened so far has definitely exceeded everyone's expectations. The response across the board, from press to retailers to fans, has been overwhelmingly positive…everyone seems to love *Jim Butcher,* Harry Dresden, and this series!" Look for the new printing in early June.

•The sold-out ***Hulk #3*** is going back to press; the cover will feature pick-up art taken from *Ed McGuinness's* interior work. Look for it next week.

•Okay, everyone knows that there's one high-profile Batman film coming up this summer—but maybe you haven't heard about the *second* Batman film debuting on DVD July 8th. The OAV will feature six interlocking stories focusing on Bruce Wayne's earliest adventures as Batman, including stories written by *Greg Rucka, David Goyer, Brian Azzarello, Alan Burnett, Josh Olson,* and *Jordan Goldberg*. You can choose from a standard DVD, a 2-disc special edition, or a Blu-Ray disc.



•DC has offered a sneak peek at the two covers for next week's ***Final Crisis #1*** by *Grant Morrison & J. G. Jones.* Designer *Chip Kidd* gave the books their distinctive look. As for the ideas behind the two covers—well, artist *Scott Kolins,*who's working on one of the ***Final Crisis*** tie-in series, explains the idea behind the design. "There are going to be two covers for each Final Crisis issue," Kolins told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers.* "A 'sliver' cover relating to the content of the issue, like a pivotal scene, and an 'iconic' cover spotlighting a main character in the issue..."

Buck Rogers in the 21st Century

Buck Rogers may have called the 25th Century home, but it appears that the 21st Century is going to be particularly kind to Buck and his many fans.

Beginning this fall, Hermes Press will launch an ambitious project to collect the entire daily and Sunday run of the strip. ***Buck Rogers in the 25th Century Volume One*** will collect two years of the strip (1929 & 1930) in a hefty 336-page 9" X 12" landscape-format volume.

Buck Rogers was comic strip's first intrepid SF adventurer, predating Flash Gordon (although the latter eventually eclipsed Buck in popularity). The strip was so influential that for decades, many referred to science fiction as "that Buck Rogers stuff."

The first volume kicks off a five-year plan that will see the release of a volume of dailies every five months and one volume of Sunday strips every year. Each volume will feature an essay on the strip by a leading science-fiction author to place the series in historical perspective along with documentary materials and production artwork.

Award winning SF writer and popular culture historian Ron Goulart, who supplies the introduction to the first volume, said, "In the annals of sci-fi there is no more important series than Buck Rogers; it set the standards for action, humor, and suspense that have rarely been equaled since the strip premiered in 1929."

Hermes is going to extreme lengths to ensure the quality of their reprint volumes; rather than working from printed strips (as is all too common with many collections of strips from this era), Hermes is using the original engraver's proofs as source material, so the strip will look better than when it was originally printed. For the Sunday version of the strip, which will be released next year, "Hermes Press will digitally recolor all of the Sundays so our complete version of ***Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*** will be the definitive version of the most important sci-fi strip ever," Publisher *Daniel Herman* said.

Buck Rogers in the 25th Century Volume One is slated for September release.

Drive-in Adventure

Today, in the world of monster HDTVs and high-tech home theaters, the decidedly low-tech drive-in seems like an antique from the last century—but for writer *Michael San Giacomo,* the drive-in is the setting for 32 stories that take place over the last half-century.

Tales of the Starlight Drive-In, a 243-page graphic novel from Image Comics, is a fascinating look at the almost-forgotten American entertainment venue. "It took me — and 23 artists—three years to complete ***Tales of the Starlight Drive-In,"*** San Giacomo said. "In this, (2008) the 75th anniversary of the opening of the first drive-in theater in the world, it seems appropriate for celebrate the venerable institution with a powerful graphic novel that combines the best childhood and young adult memories of that very American institution."

San Giacomo said the book's stories "are crafted so they can be read and enjoyed separately - and make perfect sense. But when read together, they form a complete novel with an epilogue that is really a second ending. The ending(s) will take everyone by surprise. It's a mosaic graphic novel I think people will love.

"Among the artists are *Francesco Francavilla, Guy Dorian, Reilly Brown, DERF, Dave Beyer Jr, Blair Smith, Joe Bucco, Sean McArdle,* and many more. I also enlisted some amazing European artists, such as *Yildiray Cinar, Alessandro Bragalini, Henrik Horvath, Giuseppe Pica,* and the incredible *Dexter Wee* from the Philippines.

"Like the movies, the stories span all genres including crime, comedy, romance, adventure, disaster, superhero (featuring my own character Phantom Jack) and even a western. The stories span more than fifty years, illustrating the rise and fall of the drive-in theater. And somehow the movie playing at the time of the story figures into each plot, if only tangentially."

San Giacomo is especially proud of one tale in the book. "I wanted authenticity for my story about a prisoner serving life in jail in the story inspired by ***Shawshank Redemption,*** so I hired a guy actually serving life in prison for murder at Mansfield Prison, where ***Shawshank*** was filmed. I think that's a comic first, but it gets better. It turns out the guy may actually be innocent (just like in ***Shawshank***.) He was convicted of killing a hooker on the testimony of one witness. There was no—I repeat, *no,* CSI evidence like prints or blood or anything. Recently, the witness, an admitted heroin addict, told me and the FBI that he lied because he owed my artist $5,000 for drugs. Anyway, we're waiting for a judge to rule on giving my artist a new trial."

While the other stories in the book may not have as much life-changing impact, they do offer a memorable assortment of tales linked by a common setting. ***Tales of the Starlight Drive-In*** is slated for early June release.

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Top Comics for June

BATMAN #678

Grant Morrison (W); Tony Daniel & Sandu Florea (A)

(DC APR080180 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman's adversary is victorious... but does that truly mean the end of the Dark Knight?

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison says his entire Batman run to date has been building to this point—and gauging from the prequel pages in ***DC Universe Zero***, it's going to be the biggest thing to hit Gotham since "Hush"!

CHUCK #1 (OF 6)

Peter Johnson & Zev Borow (W); Joel Gomez & John Stanisci (A)

(Wildstorm/DC APR080251 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Chuck Bartowski may be on a television break, but his adventures continue in this original comic book six-parter inspired by the hit NBC television series.

Why Should You Care?

Not only is WildStorm affording the same attention to television detail that made their ***Supernatural*** miniseries a surprise hit, but they've also enlisted a pair of ***Chuck*** experts to ensure the book captures the feel of the series: ***Chuck*** co-executive producer *Peter Johnson* and series writer *Zev Borow.*

CONAN THE CIMMERIAN #0

Timothy Truman (W); Tomas Giorello (A)

(Dark Horse APR080013 99¢)

What's the Scoop?

Conan enters the next phase of his barbaric life as he abandons the many-storied cities to return to his beloved Cimmeria, the land of his childhood. But Cimmeria is far from an idyllic place, as any Conan fan can tell you...

Why Should You Care?

Tim Truman & Tomas Giorello focus on Conan in his prime as the series is relaunched to reflect the new series focus on Conan as he is best remembered by *Robert E. Howard* fans.

DEAN KOONTZ'S FRANKENSTEIN VOL 1 #2 (OF 5): PRODIGAL SON

Chuck Dixon (W); Brett Booth (A)

(Dabel Bros APR083721 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A serial killer terrorizes contemporary New Orleans, slaughtering his victims and stealing body parts. His intent: to build the perfect human... something he failed to do in his earlier attempt. The problem is, one of those earlier attempts is still alive, determined to stop his creator's evil plans.

Why Should You Care?

The Dabel Brothers, who transformed the works of Laurell K. Hamilton, George R.R. Martin, and Jim Butcher into hit comics, turn their publishing attention to one of popular fiction's most prolific and successful authors, *Dean Koontz.*

ETERNALS #1

Charles Knauf & Daniel Knauf (W); Daniel Acuna (A)

(Marvel APR082266 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Celestials have returned from to assume their rightful place in the Marvel Universe—and just in time, since a Celestial now towers over Golden Gate Park, standing in judgment over the Earth. Could this be the end of the world as we know it?

Why Should You Care?

Charlie & Daniel Knauf pick up where *Neil Gaiman* left off as they restore Kirby's once-forgotten creation to a prominent role in Marvel continuity.

FINAL CRISIS #2 (OF 7)

Grant Morrison (W); J.G. Jones (A)

(DC APR080166 $3.99)

Continuing the epic multiverse-spanning Crisis saga by Grant Morrison & J.G. Jones

What's the Scoop?

Sonny Sumo and Mister Miracle team to face the offspring of the Anti-Life Equation! Earth's superheroes mourn one of their oldest allies. Costumed criminals sink to new depths of cowardice and depravity as Libra takes things too far. The doomsday secrets of the poisoned city of Blüdhaven are revealed, as is the shocking identity of the prime suspect in the murder of a god. And Batman becomes the first of Earth's champions to face the Fallen of Apokolips. All this and a spectacular return from the dead... How's that for major plot development?

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison & J.G. Jones shake up the DC Universe as the grand, epic final part of the Crisis trilogy continues. This is the series that will re-set the DC Universe!

MADAME XANADU #1

Matt Wagner (W); Amy Reeder Hadley (A)

(Vertigo/DC APR080266 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

She's an enigmatic woman with an amazing gift of prophecy... but how does the seer see herself? The answers to that question will take readers back through the centuries in search of Madame Xanadu's origins.

Why Should You Care?

Matt Wagner adds depth and dimension to one of the most enigmatic and undeveloped characters in DC's mystical history... and adds a link to the Phantom Stranger along the way.

SECRET INVASION #3 (OF 8)

Brian Bendis (W); Leinil Francis Yu

(Marvel APR082292 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Avengers face off against their fellow heroes... or are they Skrulls impersonating their fellow heroes? The Super-Skrulls launch a targeted attack. And no one knows how to determine who can be trusted. It's the ultimate paranoid nightmare... but it's a bad dream come all too true for Marvel's heroes.

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis & Leinil Yu deliver the ultimate X-Files-quality conspiracy drama—and the future of the Marvel Universe rides on its outcome! This is *the* Marvel saga of 2008, accessible to longtime fans and Marvel newcomers alike.

SKAAR, SON OF HULK #1

Greg Pak (W); Ron Garney (A)

(Marvel APR082270 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Hulk may have gone home to Earth, but the alien war planet isn't Hulk-free—not as long as Skaar, the son of Hulk, lives!

Why Should You Care?

Greg Pak & Ron Garney take readers back to Planet Hulk, where Skaar is the strongest of all... but his world is about to get be shaken up by the arrival of a Fillian warlord, an Imperial princess, and a mysterious Earthman.

STAR TREK: MIRROR IMAGES #1

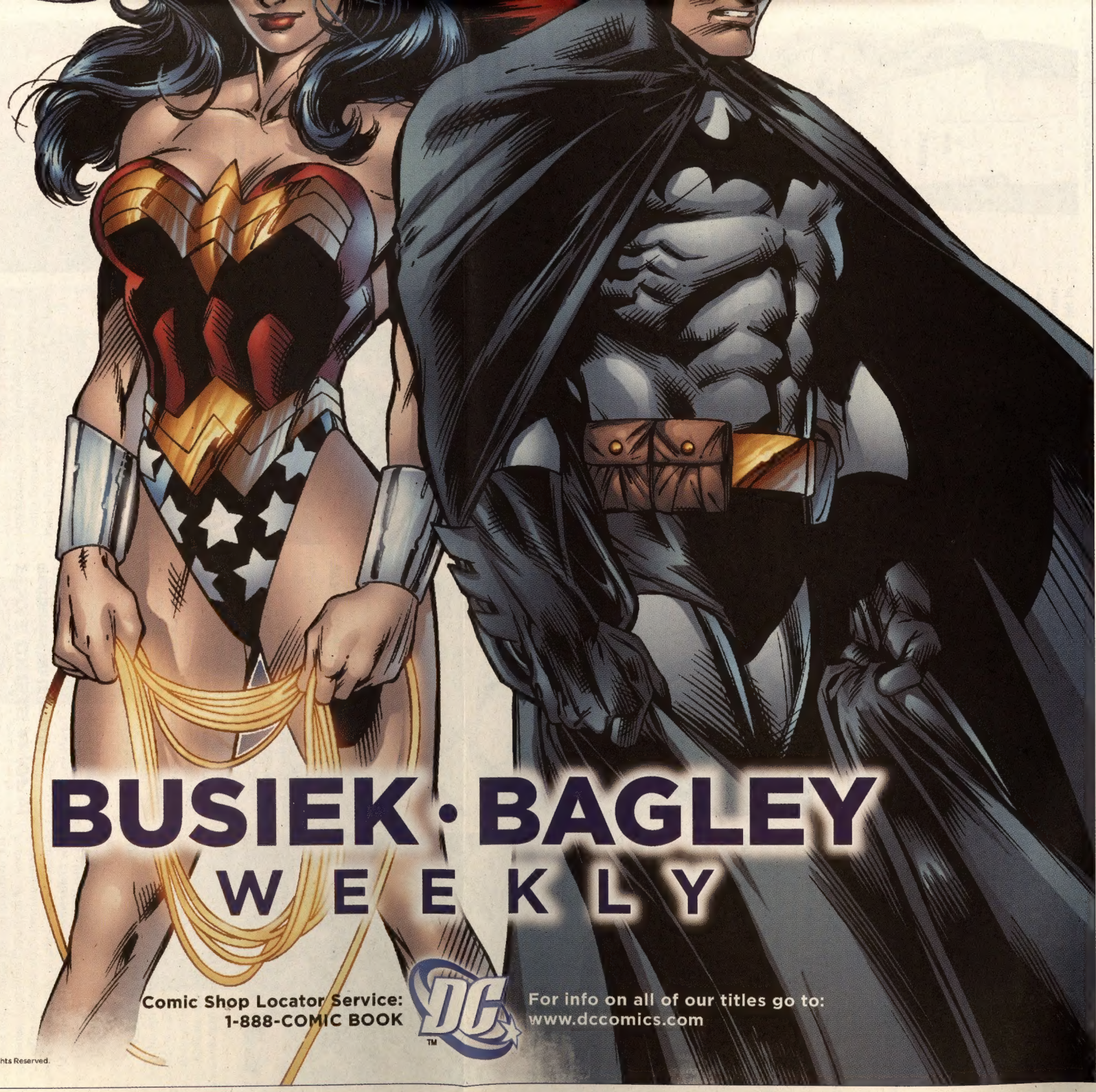
Scott & David Tipton (W); David Messina (A)

(IDW APR083908 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Remember the "Mirror, Mirror" episode of the original ***Star Trek***—the one with the goatee evil versions of the Trek crew? Well, they're back in this series that explores the background of Mirror-Kirk, revealing how he overthrew Captain Pike to seize command of the ISS Enterprise.

Continued on page 6



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TRINITY

Why Should You Care?

IDW continues its exploration of the Star Trek Universe, inspired by storylines largely untouched since the days of the original series. And that's a worthwhile Enterprise indeed!

SUPERMAN #677

James Robinson (W); Renato Guedes & José Wilson Magalhaes (A)

(DC APR080182 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A new presence declares his control of Metropolis, a monster strikes the city harbor, the Science Police arrive on the scene, and Green Lantern guest-stars... sounds like another day for Superman!

Why Should You Care?

Writer *James Robinson* makes his debut as the new ongoing writer of ***Superman*** with this issue—and not only will readers be able to look forward to new Robinson work at long last, but they'll also see tighter continuity between this series and *Geoff Johns'* ***Action Comics.***

TRINITY #1

Kurt Busiek (W); Mark Bagley (A)

(DC APR080162 $2.99)

TRINITY #2

Kurt Busiek (W); Mark Bagley (A)

(DC APR080163 $2.99)

TRINITY #3

Kurt Busiek (W); Mark Bagley (A)

(DC APR080164 $2.99)

TRINITY #4

Kurt Busiek (W); Mark Bagley (A)

(DC APR080165 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

DC kicks off its third weekly series—and it's the biggest of all, starring DC's Trinity—Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman.

Why Should You Care?

Mark Bagley, the ace artist who has illustrated more issues of Spider-Man than any other creator in comics history, makes his DC debut as he teams up with writer *Kurt Busiek* for a weekly series featuring DC's Big Three. And if there's any artist capable of drawing 52 weekly issues, it's *Mark Bagley!*

ULTIMATE ORIGINS #1 (OF 5)

Brian Bendis (W); Butch Guice (A)

(Marvel APR082246 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When they first met, Bruce Banner warned Spider-Man that "everything is connected." Now readers will discover just what those connections are in this series that reveals the truth of the Ultimate Universe and its heroes.

Why Should You Care?

Even in its earliest days, *Brian Bendis* had a master plan that interlinked the diverse storylines of the Ultimate Marvelverse in a way that readers would never expect. Now the ultimate Ultimate writer teams with artist *Butch Guice* to reveal a story that will shake up the Ultimate Marvelverse and pave the way for the universe-shaking story ***Ultimatum.***

WAR HEROES #1

Mark Millar (W); Tony Harris (A)

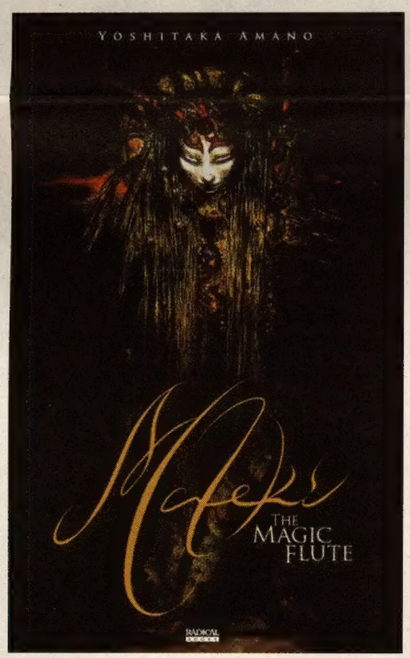
(Image APR082156 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When the military gains the ability to bestow super-powers on its troops, history is changed in ways that no one ever anticipated.

Why Should You Care?

Mark Millar takes the story once intended for ***Ultimates*** and develops it into an edgy, complex look at the impact of superpowers on global politics.



YOSHITAKA AMANO'S MATEKI THE MAGIC FLUTE HC

Yoshitaka Amano (W/A)

(Radical APR084071 $29.95)

What's the Scoop?

A young man is forced to ut away his flute and become a warrior in order to save his lover from the lord of darkness.

Why Should You Care?

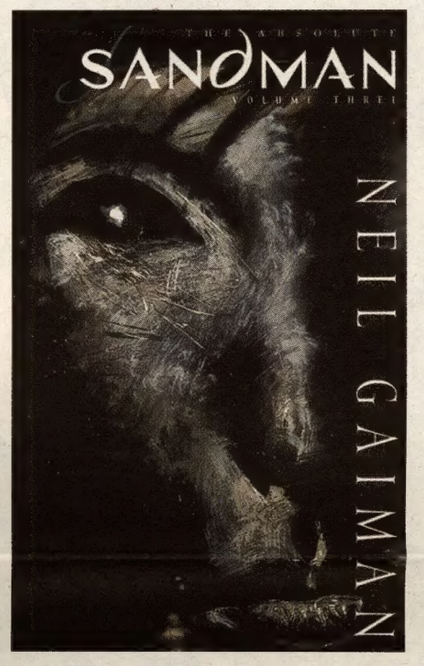
Internationally acclaimed creator *Yoshitaka Amano* presents a distinctive, evocative interpretation of Mozart's ***The Magic Flute.***

Collected Cool:
June's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN: THE BLACK DOSSIER HC

(Wildstorm/DC JAN080240 $99.00)

Enjoy the most complex ***LoEG*** tale thus far in this oversized, deluxe slipcased edition of the *Alan Moore-Kevin O'Neill* graphic novel, which includes oodles of extras—including a 45rpm vinyl recording by *Alan Moore* himself!



ABSOLUTE SANDMAN HC VOL 3

(Vertigo/DC JAN080242 $99.00)

The third of four ***Absolutes*** collecting the entire *Neil Gaiman* ***Sandman*** canon, this volume includes ***Sandman #s 40-56*** along with a heaping helping of bonus material, including scripts, thumbnails, and more.

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER HC VOL 1

(Checker APR083681 $22.95)

After years of unavailability, *Mort Walker's* classic military-humor comic strip returns to bookstores with the release of the first volume of a comprehensive chronological reprinting of Walker's five-decade-plus run.

CREEPY ARCHIVES HC

(Dark Horse FEB080103 $49.95)

Black and white hardcover collecting the first five issues of Warren's EC-esque horror magazine from the 1960s, with material by the best in comics, including Frazetta, Toth, Williamson, Crandall, Wood, and others.

DAREDEVIL BY BENDIS OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(Marvel MAR082251 $99.99)

The *Brian Bendis* run of the Man Without Fear is the focus of this massive volume collecting ***Daredevil #s 16-19, #26-50, & #56-60.***

GREEN LANTERN: TALES OF THE SINESTRO CORPS HC

(DC FEB080243 $29.99)

GREEN LANTERN: THE SINESTRO CORPS WAR HC VOL 2

(DC FEB080242 $24.99)

The remainder of the Sinestro Corps War is compiled in these two books; the first collects ***Green Lantern #18-20*** (plus backup stories), ***Green Lantern Sinestro Corps Special #1 (*** (plus backup stories), ***Tales of the Sinestro Corps: Ion, Tales of the Sinestro Corps: Parallax, Tales of the Sinestro Corps: Cyborg Superman, Tales of the Sinestro Corps: Anti-Monitor,*** and ***Green Lantern Sinestro Corps,*** while the second includes ***Green Lantern #24-25 & Green Lantern Corps #16-19.***

HOWARD THE DUCK OMNIBUS

(Marvel DEC072241 $99.99)

The entire Howard run of the late Duckman *Steve Gerber* is featured in this massive Omnibus.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS: ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE HC VOL 2

(Marvel APR082340 $59.99)

Marvel revisits that amazingly energetic pre-hero monster era with this collection of ***Tales of Suspense #s 11-20,*** featuring material by Kirby, Ditko, Heck, and others.

SCORCHY SMITH AND THE ART OF NOEL SICKLES HC

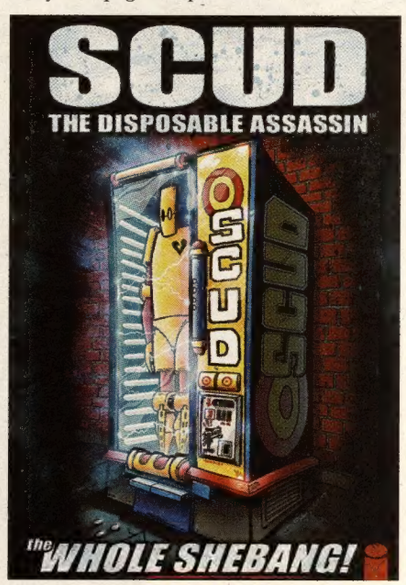
(APR083922 $49.99)

Collecting Sickles' complete run of this groundbreaking comic strip, along with commentary, biographical material, and more.

SCUD THE DISPOSABLE ASSASSIN: THE WHOLE SHEBANG TP

(Image APR082180 $29.99)

The entire 24-issue run of ***Scud,*** along with ***Drywall: Unzipped,*** is collected in this hefty 764-page compendium.



Y THE LAST MAN TP VOL 10: WHYS AND WHEREFORES

(Vertigo/DC MAR080241 $14.99)

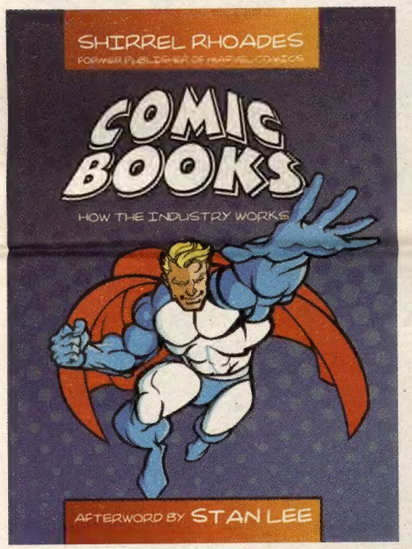
The provocative and eminently satisfying finale to the thought-provoking series by *Brian K. Vaughan & Pia Guerra* is collected at last!

FYI: Great Additions to Your Reference Library

ARCHETYPE: ART OF TIM BRADSTREET HC

(Desperado APR083741 $49.99; also available in a signed & numbered edition (APR083742 $79.99))

Joe Pruett presents a look at the career; includes never-before-seen material from his files and sketchbooks, his enormously popular comic work, art from his career in movie design and posters, his gaming illustrations, as well as beautifully reproduced images of his personal favorites with insights into his life and creative process.



COMIC BOOKS SC: HOW THE INDUSTRY WORKS

(Peter Lang APR084330 $32.95)

Shirrel Rhoades offers an insightful behind-the-scenes look at the business and artistic sides of comic book publishing in this intriguing book.

COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICAN COMIC BOOKS SC

(Peter Lang APR084331 $39.95)

From the industry's Platinum Age beginnings to the current graphic novel boom—*Shirrel Rhoades* covers it all in this decades-spanning history.

FRAZETTA: DEFINITIVE REFERENCE HC

(Vanguard APR084163 $39.95)

An illustrated index to the voluminous work of one of modern illustration's most influential and admired creators.

MAN OF ROCK: BIOGRAPHY OF JOE KUBERT SC

(Fantagraphics APR083836 $19.99)

Bill Schelly, one of comics' most talented and knowledgeable historians and the author of the acclaimed biography of *Otto Binder*, offers a fascinating look at *Joe Kubert's* life and extraordinary career.

NICK CARDY: BEHIND THE ART HC

(TwoMorrows APR084156 $34.95)

Eric Nolen-Weathington joins with creator *Nick Cardy* to present an insightful, art-filled look at the career of one of comics' greats.

PRINCE VALIANT PAGE HC

(Flesk APR084319 $29.95)

Not just a strip collection, this book offers a look at the career of *Gary Gianni*, as well as an insightful analysis of his artistry and his creative process.

Hot Commodities: June's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN BLACK AND WHITE STATUE: BOB KANE

(DC Direct NOV070304 $69.99)

Sculptor *Jack Mathews* offers a three-dimensional interpretation of the art of Batman's creator.

CLASSIC SPIRIT MINI BUST

(Dark Horse MAR080084 $69.99)

Rather than going for the ***Sin City***-esque film version of Denny Colt, this minibust draws its inspiration from ***Spirit*** creator *Will Eisner's* art.

DARK KNIGHT: BATMAN BUST

(DC Direct APR080298 $59.99)

DARK KNIGHT: THE JOKER BUST

(DC Direct APR080300 $59.99)

DC Direct offers a pair of striking sculptures inspired by the Batfilm that's going to have everyone talking this summer.

LOKI STATUE

(Bowen APR084722 $200.00)

The Kucharek Brothers do the honors on this iconic interpretation of Thor's diabolical enemy... and brother! This sculpture, which comes with two interchangeable hands, is based on one of *John Buscema's* most famous illustrations from ***Silver Surfer #4*** (as well as another illustration derived from that classic image).

Check 'Em Out: Books You *Should* Be Reading

BPRD WAR ON FROGS #1

(Dark Horse APR080074 $2.99)

Veteran artist *Herb Trimpe* joins regular ***B.P.R.D.*** writer *John Arcudi* and ***Hellboy*** creator *Mike Mignola* for the first of four one-shots timed to ride this summer's ***Hellboy*** wave.

CHARLATAN BALL #1

(Image APR082158 $2.99)

Joe Casey introduces readers to a seedy stage magician who finds himself transported to a realm where magic works.

FIRE & BRIMSTONE #1 (OF 3)

(Antarctic APR083530 $3.95)

Boneyard creator *Richard Moore* presents the tale of Fire and Brimstone, a fallen angel and a (slightly) risen demoness.

GROWING UP WITH COMICS GN

(Desperado APR083744 $16.99)

R.G. Taylor illustrates true stories by a television producer, an animator, a comic book store owner, and many others about the comics they loved in their youth and about the way the medium changed their lives.

MANHUNTER #31

(DC APR080212 $2.99)

The fan-favorite series returns, courtesy of creator *Marc Andreyko* and new artist *Michael Gaydos*.

RABBI HARVEY RIDES AGAIN GN

(Jewish Lights APR084002 $16.99)

Writer/artist *Steve Sheinkin* presents a follow-up to the popular ***Adventures of Rabbi Harvey***, continuing the exploits of an old world rabbi turned Wild West Sheriff.

ROBIN/SPOILER SPECIAL #1

(DC APR080188 $3.99)

Spoiler's identity has remained a mystery - until now!

WHAT IF? FANTASTIC FOUR TRIBUTE TO MIKE WIERINGO

(Hero Initiative APR083897 $4.99)

Presenting the ***What If?*** story that Wieringo began before his death, now completed by such friends as *Arthur Adams, Paul Renaud, Stuart Immonen, Cully Hamner, Alan Davis, Brian Stelfreeze, David Williams, Sanford Greene, Humberto Ramos, Skottie Young, Mike Allred*, and *Barry Kitson*.

"A MUST-HAVE FOR FANS OF THE SHOW" - VARIETY

HEROES

The best-selling collection of the amazing online comics based on the hit NBC Television Series is now available in softcover

Featuring artwork from the show by TIM SALE

Written by series writers ARON ELI COLEITE, CHUCK KIM, JOE POKASKI, JESSE ALEXANDER and other top talents

Illustrated by PHIL JIMENEZ, MICHAEL TURNER, KOI TURNBULL & many more

Cover by ALEX ROSS
Introduction by MASI (HIRO) OKA

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